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A Kansas Industrial Court.
Henry Allen, governor of Kansas, declines the honor thrust upon him by William Allen White, and refuses to be considered as a candidate for the Presidency. He believes that he has more immediate duties at home, duties arising from conditions forced by the recent coal strike and incident to the general industrial situation and the social unrest.

The way this Kansas official dealt temporarily with the coal strike, from the State's standpoint, makes the more significant his plan for a permanent State policy which plan he will submit to the legislature this week. He calls for a new organ of the judiciary, an industrial court, to be more exact, with full power to deal with controversies, to establish minimum wage-scales pending judicial awards, to prohibit lockouts, boycotts, blacklists and strikes.

The theory back of the bill is that the whole is greater than any one of its parts, that public rights transcend group rights, that certain industries are permanently "impressed with public right" and that therefore the State has power to prevent any cessation of their activities. Men engaged in these industries may quit them at any time that they have grievances; but, on the other hand, they may not conspire to stop operations on an issue of wages or hours of labor or for any other purpose not allowed by the court.

There are two comments upon this Kansas "progressive" action, which can be made without arousing controversy. Like the plan recently outlined tentatively for Federal solution of the same problem by the Industrial Commission, the mechanism devised for action is judicial, and not of the commission form. To be sure, it calls for judges with quite a different training and technical equipment than those dealing with criminal and ordinary civil cases. But that is not the point. The emphasis is put on an already recognized and traditional arm of government, as yet most respected by the American public of the three historic instruments of political action.

Second, if Kansas decides to experiment with the method, she will be doing for the nation what the State governments so often do for the larger political unit, namely, serving as a political laboratory. For many reasons she is excellently prepared to make the test. Diffusion of wealth is general, but without extremes of plutocracy or proletarianism. The electors are progressive, but not radical, at least, according to modern standards. While agriculture dominates, industrialism exists and has shown itself at its best and worst. A verdict on the method tested in such a constituency would indicate in a somewhat conclusive way what the dominant political section of the country intends to do, and what it will support when the plan is nationally considered.

Every time one reads that egg prices have dropped he wishes the grocer followed the newspapers closer.

Trouble with Sir George Paish seems to be too much freedom with his ciphers.

The House District Committee believes that 50-50 does not necessarily imply an even break.

Undertakers in the West report business good and one hesitates as to whether congratulations for the embalmers or sympathy with the community is in order.

Federating American Protestantism.
The conference at Atlantic City this week of 1,000 delegates from all parts of the country and from Canada, under the auspices of the Interchurch World Movement of North America, is a mobilizing process by civilians which lacks none of the thoroughness, strategy and conquering aims of an army. Edinburgh, Scotland, saw a similar gathering in 1910 of the same forces gathered from Western Europe and the Americas; but the war came along and shattered many of its plans and blasted some of its hopes. Nor has the time come yet when its work can be wholly resumed.

The North American corps of the army, however, has been busy, and when the sessions open on "Wednesday there will be a massing of evidence as to actual conditions in the form of "surveys," such as the leaders of the host never have had before. The work has been done by competent investigators, and the scope of the quest has been very inclusive, not omitting the relation of the church to industry and commerce and its duty in times like these.

Thirty regiments of the Protestant host are to be represented in this conference. Their leaders are agreed on a joint forward movement, based on study of the facts. The number of adherents nominally pledged to co-operative action once the course is outlined, is about 25,000,000. Of sinews of war in the shape of funds there will be no lack, judging by the extent to which the laity during and since the war have been giving to denominational "forward movements;" and besides individual donors of the Rockefeller, Jr., type are enlisted for service. Secretary of State Lansing is to be the titular head; members of the Cabinet, Senators and Representatives have pledged active support, and the technical administration of the movement is in the hands of men who in the Federal Council of Churches, or as administrators of large missionary and educational boards, have already shown superior ability as organizers.

There are pulpits and editors of a radical type today, who endeavor to create the impression that the church is on the toboggan slide, that it has no grip on the contemporary man; and that institutional religion is disintegrating. The singular fact is that during and following the war American Protestantism and Roman Catholicism have shown more vitality, given more generously for church extension, and planned more far-sightedly for education, foreign missions, Americanization and establishment of social justice among men than ever before in their history; and the end is not yet.

Generally the women who welcome the approach of shorter skirts have two very good reasons.

The principal difference between a highwayman and a profiteer is the police sometimes catch a highwayman.

District officials fear that bichloride of mercury is present in some of the cheapest whisky. Why waste bichloride?

The Washington man who announces he has solved the problem of getting turkeys at a reduced price is either a fortnight late or about a year ahead in his discovery.

Lucy Page Gaston announces her candidacy for President upon the Republican ticket on a platform pledged to abolish the cigarette, yet no violent drop was noted in tobacco stocks.

If, as they say, figures never lie, and the government clerks' average pay has only been jumped 72 cents from 1823 to 1916, who will contend that another raise is not in order?

Now come the zoo keepers protesting over the high cost of living. Food for their star boarders has taken much the same jump as that for mere humans. Only the rent has remained stationary, they say.

NEW YORK CITY
By O. O. McINTYRE

New York, Jan. 5.—Theatrical stars are literally made over night, but they twinkle only for a brief period and disappear. It is possible to number on the fingers of one hand stars of the last decade who have had real careers. I can think of two at the moment—Maude Adams and Ethel Barrymore.

The rest have talent and genius, but little capacity for hard work. A career means to them a continuous run on Broadway. They merely flash for a short while in the theatrical heavens, not because of any lack of ability, but because they will not leave the city.

Just recently an actress who it is believed had the most promising career of the present crop of stars quit the legitimate stage to go into the movies. The reason? It kept her in Manhattan and gave her a salary of \$3,000 a week instead of \$1,000. But only for a year. She had years of great moments and rich rewards ahead on the legitimate stage.

The hinterland to the average star means a horsehide to be scratched, china cups, bewildered landlords and town halls. They do not realize that some of the smaller cities have more appreciative audiences, better theaters and more genuine hotel comforts than they get in their stuffy chicken-coop apartments here.

They may last two seasons on Broadway and a few weeks more in the Bronx and Brooklyn and the public here tires of them for the time being, at least. But they remain gauche and undaunted—not realizing they are out of it and that they can take up their careers in the great world outside with a New York success to give it impetus.

It is indeed a whimsical unreal world, this world of the stars and an actor or actress of worth is not awakened from the dream of unreal values by the sudden realization that he or she is out of a job. Instead of a lucky fight for favor of the so-called "tank towns," they stubbornly stick to the Rialto and soon they are heard of no more. Voila!

There is a black-and-white artist named Fish whose offerings deal in the odd and bizarre in current periodicals. The artist has been somewhat of a mystery. Some said he lived in Greenwich Village and others said he was a product of the Middle West.

Wherever he lived, it was certain that he knew how to satirize society and could sketch a knickerbockered butler so haughty that it made you fume to see it. Fish was a wizard at drawing bridge-playing bishops, lean young bloods of the town, petting out peers, wasters, vampires, horsemen, poets and pests.

In art circles here the insistent demand was to know who Fish was. The truth came out recently. Fish is an English girl. Despite the fact that he-beg pardon, she—is the most cosmopolitan of black-and-white satirists, she lives on the South coast in England and has never seen Fifth Avenue or a London drawing-room. Her creative imagination is wholly responsible for the people she depicts, people when the great pulsals of the universe recognize and laugh over. She has never lived the life she limns. Rather she is a country miss of 22 who hoes in the garden and milks the cows.

The day or night is rare when something does not happen in New York that would keep the rest of the country talking for a month, but is forgotten in this city of constant wonders as soon as the ink on the newspapers that made it public is dry. The sight of two men climbing down the Broadway side of one of the large hotels and a policeman leaning out of a window shooting at them happened at Broadway and Forty-second early the other morning. The men had beaten up the hotel guests and robbed them. It is only one of many daring crimes lately. The police say it is a result of crooks stealing themselves with drugs instead of gin and whisky as they did in the old days.

Such Is Life
As It Is Seen
By O. B. JOYFUL

After discussing the proposition for a number of months you actually start keeping chickens. You lodge them in an empty piano box, which cost you only \$7.50, in the back yard and you spend several pleasant evenings figuring up the profits you expect to make from the sale of eggs and broilers to neighbors.

Experienced friends have warned you that the winter is a poor time to start keeping chickens, but you know better. You've thought the whole thing out and you're convinced that now's the time.

About the third day you begin looking for eggs. You snoop around in the straw you have provided for the chicks at a cost of 75 cents, but you fail to discover any eggs.

You are surprised and hurt. You look suspiciously at the neighbors' homes. "What's that?" you ask. "The high price of eggs, you know, is liable to make other people perfectly honest folks do almost anything. The fourth day there are still no eggs and you get Neighbor Jones and Neighbor Smith with hard glances and an intense desire to hand them over to the police.

On the fifth day you find that one of the chickens is out during the night and froze to death and you wonder who opened the door to the piano box.

Certainly you didn't leave it open yourself. Your suspicions grow. The sixth day—Eureka! You find an egg! Your suspicions vanish. Neighbor Jones and Neighbor Smith are fine fellows. You hasten to tell them about your success.

But they, hard-headed miserly fellows, plunge you into the depths of despair. They coldly figure up the cost of that one egg. It stands you just \$15.50! You strike Jones and Smith from your list of friends and a long protracted neighborhood feud starts. Wow! Are eggs high priced?

You're perfectly willing to take an oath, after an experience with keeping chickens, that the price of eggs is way, way, way beyond reason!

A LINE O' CHEER EACH DAY O' THE YEAR
By John Kendrick Bangs.
INNER SPRING.
Dull, and dark, and cold, and gray—
That's the way things are out—
Not a hint of flowers gay
In the prospect bleak and wide.
But within a Heart of Cheer,
Love, and Laughing Songs to
What care I for outer drear
Since my Soul enfolds the Spring?
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CHECKING UP



FOLKS AND THINGS AROUND WASHINGTON
By LABERT ST. CLAIR.

Representative Neely, of West Virginia, is very firm in his assertion that persons in public life who desire to learn about their standing with constituents should either come out in the open in making inquiries or else write a letter to the constituents themselves. They certainly should not attempt to get this information by anything but the most direct methods.

Neely decided one night that there was bootlegging or some other form of law violation going on at a certain place in town so he arranged with a man to go up to the door of the place, while he stood behind a nearby telephone pole, and attempt to make a deal for some liquor. At the appointed time, with the mayor behind a door and a woman standing on the door and the upstairs window. The agent immediately made an effort to purchase the liquor, but the woman declined to sell and in a high voice shouted:

"Why I wouldn't sell you any liquor on a bet. Don't you know that that blankety-blankety-blank mayor of ours, who is no good on earth, is sending everybody to jail that he can lay his hands on?"

"Let's go," shouted Neely, and the mayor and his agent trooped back to town.

Will Hays, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, is an Indiana orator of the old school. He surely can wave his arms and recite verse. Kipling, Jim Riley, or any of them, usually are on his tongue's end. The other night, however, in speaking before the National Press Club, he seemed to have some difficulty in getting started on a piece of negro dialect regarding railroad tracks seeming to run together when one looks down at them for a long distance.

"I don't see why Bill should have had any difficulty. I heard him recite that same verse twice this week in other speeches,"

The only man in the world who knows who pulled the rope that hanged Charles Giteau, the slayer of President Garfield, is George Winters, who runs an elevator in the Capitol. Winters has a great feed store for his.

Whenever a visitor enters Bourne's office he is escorted into a storeroom, given an apple or two, a pocketful of nuts, and a cigar, and told to make himself at home. The result is that Bourne has as many conferences as any man in Washington.

While Bourne came to Washington as a Senator from the State of Washington, he really must be called a citizen of many sections of the country. He has apple orchards in Washington, peach plantations in the South and mills in New England. His heart, however, is generally believed to lie in the Southwestern section of the country and this belief is prompted by the fact that he wears a black slouch hat that would do credit to any man from Oklahoma.

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THE LIMELIGHT
—BY—
GEORGE PERRY MORRIS.

Dr. Wellington Koo's disinclination to return to his post as Minister from China to the United States is understandable, but Washington is likely to be the gain of a leading European capital, in China's investment of her youth in contact with American university life has produced no higher dividend in any one person than she has had from this brilliant, eloquent and thoroughgoing Columbia University graduate. His experience at the Paris Peace Conference no doubt has been disillusioning, but it has fitted him the better to deal with conditions as they are in Europe, and even were he inclined to return here, it might prove shrewd for China to keep him in Europe.

Arthur Woods, who is to be chairman of the Americanization Commission of the American Legion, was a police commissioner of New York City under the lamented Mitchell. During the war he filled several important positions admirably. Harvard has graduated few finer men of late years than this man with ideals, who yet can deal practically with conditions as they are, and who is free from all class prejudice, and a mingling of the suaver in mode with the fortiter in re, get things across. He has taken on important new work now that calls for much discretion, and ability to discriminate between the real and pseudo forms of patriotism.

Election of Ralph B. Perry to the presidency of the American Philosophical Association is a recognition of the "realist" school. During the war he both wrote and labored earnestly to defeat the Central Powers, and he did much as a temporary officer in the army to define the educational policy of that organization and relate it to the universities and colleges. An adequate account has yet to be written of the service that he rendered. Perry and Hocking of Harvard, Lovejoy of Johns Hopkins and other teachers of philosophy did as shapers of national opinion during the war and as inciters of American participation. They utterly belied the commonly held theory that the philosopher is a closet metaphysician, concerned only with objective truth.

James M. Beck, the eminent lawyer, advocate of an Anglo-French-American Alliance, and critic of the Wilson administration, has turned aside from politics and lay long enough to urge the erection of a Philadelphia monument to the architect of the 1917-18 campaign, which could be made the home of a de-commercialized drama, pageant, and pageant.

The coming into the auction room of the library of Theodore L. De Vinne, master printer, whose work the people know and prize through the Century Dictionary and in connection with the golden period of the Century Magazine, but whose fame for connoisseurs in typography is with avid appetite by collectors in this field. He may or may not have been the "master printer of the world" when in his prime, and "the most stable marriage partner since Franklin." The vendors of this collection say that he was.

Unquestionably he did set standards and produce work that have profoundly shaped the output of American book publishing since his day. To acquire the tools with which he worked, the authorities he consulted, the notes that he made for his own guidance, and the collection of books, manuscripts, not to mention "presentation copies" from the great printers and publishers of other lands—this will tempt the ever-increasing number of American bibliophiles, bibliographers and typographers.

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